1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	418.00	850.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12278.00	11728.19
25.	West Bengal	4740.00	3781.25
26.	A&N Islands	25.00	0.00
27.	D&N Haveli	15.00	3.00
28.	Daman & Diu	10.00	0.00
29.	Delhi	30.00	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	20.00	10.00
	Total	94590.00	92502.52

Million Wells Scheme

1871. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year of the inception of the Million Wells Scheme (MWS);

(b) the States where the scheme have been launched; and

(c) the number of irrigation wells provided to the farmers under the scheme so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) was lunched as a sub-scheme of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)/Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Progarmme (RLEGP) during 1988-89. It continued as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which was launched on 1.4.1989. With effect from 1.1.1996, the MWS has been delinked from JRY and made an independent scheme and is being implemented in all the States. Since the inception of MWS, 10,65,274 open dug-wells have been constructed upto December, 1996.

Shortage of Power

1872. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A mid-summer nightmare" appearing in the Pioneer dated January 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure in evolving a workable formula to meet the power crisis, despite umpteen studies made by several committees for Rajadhyakasha Committee to Power Committee between 1980 to 1993; and

(c) the steps so far taken to put the State Electricity Boards as one even keel and to rejuvinate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reason behind performance of the State Electricity Boards not being upto expectation has, inter-alia, been unremunerative tariff fixation due to extraneous reasons, low utilisation of existing capacity, high T&D losses etc.

(c) The periodic monitoring of SEB performance has, resulted in increase in the PLF of State sector increasing from 51.3% in 1990-91 to 58.0% in 1995-96, and reductions in T&D losses from 22.89% in 1990-91 to 20.85% in 1994-95. Recently Government, with the consensus of the States, have drawn up a Common Minimum Action Plan for Power, which, inter-alia deals to create Independent Central and State Regulatory Commissions, provide autonomy to SEB's rationalise tariff structures, improve management practices of SEB's and further improve the physical parameters in a time bound manner.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG

1873. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the private companies functioning at present in country for supplying LPG;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated the performance of public LPG companies vis-a-vis private companies;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the monopoly of public sector companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) 96 parties have obtained rating for undertaking activities under the parallel marketing of LPG. However, as on 31.1.1997, only 17 private have imported LPG in bulk and two parties have imported package LPG.

(b) to (d) During February 1993, Government had permitted, under the parallel marketing scheme, private entrepreneurs to import and market LPG at market determined prices, under their own terms. Private parties are not required to obtain any licence from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking activities under the scheme. They are, however, required to obtain approvals/clearances under the relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety, pollution control etc., as applicable. The private parties are also now required to get themselves